

BRITISH AID NOT SURE IN PERSIA

Under No Obligation as to Bolshevik Invasion, Says Bonar Law.

VIOLATION ATTACK IN HOUSE

Speaker 'Appalled' at Discussion of Foreign Policies of Britain's Allies.

LONDON, May 20.—A vicious attack was made today in the House of Commons on the Government's general foreign policy, led by Sir Donald Maclean, Liberal. This was the outcome of the belief among the opposition parties that there is a disposition to belittle the League of Nations and elect the Supreme Council into a permanent body as an arbiter of European affairs.

The Government's obligations in Persia, with reference to the Bolshevik invasion of that country, was brought up and discussed from Bonar Law, Government leader, the statement that the Anglo-Persian treaty does not place Great Britain under obligations with regard to the Bolshevik invasion.

The speaker was forced to intervene to prevent the debate from developing into an attack on the policy of foreign countries. The speaker described himself as being appalled at the contention of Sir Donald Maclean and Lord Robert Cecil that the House of Commons was entitled to discuss the policies of the nations who are parties to the League of Nations.

Supposition as to American.

Suppose the United States were a member of the League, said the speaker, and the Committee began to discuss American policy, would that have a beneficial effect?

He warned the House that if it dared to preserve friends abroad it was responsible to discuss the motives of foreign governments as little as possible.

Sir Donald Maclean demanded of the Government what Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson, Chief of the Imperial Staff, meant in a recent speech when he advised the men of the British forces to "keep themselves fit for the time that is coming." Amid cries of "hear," Sir Donald continued:

"Who are we going to fight at no distant date? Is it America or is it Russia?"

Wilson, Speaker Churchill, the War Minister, intervened. He stated that Great Britain had enormous obligations in Constantinople, Ireland, Mesopotamia, Palestine and Egypt. Great Britain had only a small army, he said, and the War Minister had to address the soldiers and point out how sorely they were needed. That did not mean, the War Minister asserted, that Great Britain was on the verge of a great expedition.

The Government was forced into making a lengthy statement, which took the name of a defense regarding the Polish attitude. It was in reply to Sir Donald Maclean's criticism of Great Britain's action in sending war materials to Poland and his plea that the League of Nations be brought into existence at once and the demand by Lord Robert Cecil why the League of Nations had not been called in to avert the new Russian war.

Don't Want to Fight Bolsheviks.

Andrew Bonar Law declared Great Britain had no desire to make war on Soviet Russia. "The Government felt strongly that the Soviet Government was more likely to be strengthened if it were enabled to continue in a state of war than in any other way. The kind of movement which the Soviet Government was contrary to human nature and could not last, he declared.

The way to get rid of it and to create a reasonable situation in Russia was to allow the Russian people, in the first place, to work out their own salvation. It was by the opening up of trade, much more than by armament, that the Bolshevik Government could be put down.

Mr. Bonar Law, referring to the munitions bargain with Poland last October, said: "The small quantity of munitions which we gave to an ally created as a result of the war was intended for them to defend themselves and make it less likely that we should have to intervene in their behalf with armed forces. We could not make conditions, but at the same time we have been very far from giving the Polish Government any encouragement in its policy."

Mr. Bonar Law referred to an interview between Premier Lloyd George and the Polish Minister here in January. He said the Premier had stated that it was not for Great Britain to advise Poland, but the British Government did not wish to give Poland the slightest encouragement to pursue a policy of war.

Turning to the question of why the League of Nations had not been called in, Mr. Bonar Law said it was the view of the Government that the league would only take action when action could be effective. How could any one suggest that the league could have interfered successfully in a matter of this kind? he asked. It was utterly impossible that the allied councils should halt and the whole thing be handed over to the League of Nations.

Fear Red Activity in Persia.

In official circles to-day there was an inclination to minimize the immediate gravity of the near Eastern situation due to the invasion of Persia by the Bolsheviks, but there was undisguised apprehension lest a continuation of the Bolshevik successes in that region might prove that the activities of the Bolshevik propagandists, known to be operating there for some months, had been more effective than was expected.

The Bolshevik forces landed at Enzeli are believed in official quarters not to exceed 10,000, which fact, it was considered, seemed to make any immediate extension of the operations contingent on the acquisition of large numbers of recruits from the pro-Bolshevik elements in the Transcaucasian republics. For this reason War Office experts seemed to be unlikely that any advance toward Teheran would be attempted, as the Persian capital is more than 150 miles distant from Enzeli.

It was stated that the British troops which would be available for any operations against the Enzeli Bolshevik force consisted of a few thousand men now distributed among small and widely separated garrisons.

The terms of the Anglo-Persian agreement, the War Office informant said, probably would lead the Persian Government to consult with the British Government before determining the policy to pursue with reference to the new aggression.

BOLSHEVIKI DEMAND PERSIAN SURRENDER

Say Port of Enzeli Must Be Turned Over to Them.

LONDON, May 21 (Friday).—Thirteen Bolshevik warships appeared off Enzeli, Persia, and began to bombard the town on the morning of May 19, says a Telegram despatched to the London Times. A Parliamentary member, who went in an open boat to inquire their object, was fired upon, his white flag possibly escaping notice.

A deputation in behalf of the Persian Government, including a British officer, boarded the Bolshevik flagship. The deputation was informed that the Bolsheviks demanded the surrender of the port owing to the presence there of Denikine's warships and troops. If it were rendered, the Bolshevik fleet had no further hostile intentions against the Persian Government or the British garrison at Enzeli, and was ready to give immunity to the interned Russian volunteers. The future of the port of Enzeli, it was stated, would be discussed between the Moscow Soviet and the British Government.

"I understand," says the Times correspondent, "that a reply is being sent to the effect that Persia, in internecine and disarming Denikine's fleet and troops, carried out in the strictest manner her obligations of neutrality, and protests against a gratuitous attack."

"Private reports from Baku describe severe measures of repression there. It is said that Denikine has directed the Soviet Government will be punished by hanging or imprisonment of those implicated."

"Admiral Sergieff, lately commanding Denikine's fleet, is reported to be leading Russians have been hanged."

COUNCIL OF LEAGUE MEETS IN ROME

Reduction of Armaments Entrusted to Commission.

ROME, May 20.—The Council of the League of Nations met to-day at the capital. The King and Queen, the Princes, Ambassadors, Ministers and Deputies were present.

At the financial conference of the League in Brussels in June, each State will present a report on its foreign debt, internal taxation, currency, amount of international loans, internal debts and regulations regarding exports and imports. The Allies must notify the conference of their decisions regarding the German war indemnity payments. The United States will be specially requested to send representatives.

Study of the question of reduction of armaments as an imperative necessity of law is to be substituted for war has been placed by the council in the hands of a commission and it is suggested that each member State should be represented by a national delegation comprising military, naval and aerial representatives, who would be entitled to the assistance of experts.

NITTI FORMS NEW ITALIAN CABINET

LONDON, May 21.—Premier Francesco Nitti has formed his new Cabinet, with the support of the Catholics, according to a Paris despatch to the London Times. It is composed as follows:

Premier and Minister of Interior, Francesco Nitti; Foreign Minister, Vittorio Scialoja; Minister of War, Signor Bonomi; Minister of Marine, Admiral Secchi; Minister of Public Works, Signor Nava; Minister of Instruction, Signor Torre; Minister of the Treasury, Signor Schanzer; Minister of Finance, Signor Alessio.

Other portfolios were given to Signors Bertini, Miceli and Pera.

The Italian Cabinet as announced does not contain any notable changes from the one which resigned.

WON'T ANNOUNCE INDEMNITY FIGURE

Instead, Allies Will Demand Germany Say How Much She Can Pay.

TO TEST HER GOOD FAITH

Hate Passing, Says Bonar Law, Who Evades Being Drawn Out as to Kaiser.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD, Copyright, 1920, by THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD.

LONDON, May 20.—The Allies will not announce their figures covering the total amount of indemnity which Germany must pay. Instead they will demand that Germany submit to them at the meeting at Spa figures showing how much she can pay. Meanwhile experts are gathering material to enable the allied conference to judge Germany's good faith and justice when she submits the figures.

This was the explanation made by Bonar Law, of the Hythe conference of Premiers Lloyd George and Millerand, in the House of Commons to-night. He asserted that the readiness of the Allies to hear Germany's side of the question really marks the passing of the war era of hate.

Furthering this idea, Mr. Bonar Law refused to take up a challenge by the Opposition that the punishment of the Kaiser might be written off the books, although it was the Coalition's great election promise. Also he refused to take issue with Sir Donald Maclean (Liberal) when the latter declared that England could not expect to collect a penny from Germany. Mr. Bonar Law, in this connection, asserted that the budget had been drawn on exactly this assumption.

"England is fixing her financial obligations on the assumption that she will bear her own burden," Bonar Law said. The Government leaders insisted that the arrangements made at Hythe were merely an outline of the principle recognized by the Franco-British representatives that the whole war legacy was a debt to be considered together. However, he declared that it did "not involve any obligation as to the way the interallied debts were to be paid."

He insisted that the Hythe conference took no steps pandering to that sentiment, which is the opposite of the wartime feeling and which is now perceptible in certain quarters—a sentiment which is the very opposite to that in which the treaty was drawn, that Germany get no undue sympathy. He declared that the Hythe decision for disarmament and agreement with France on division of reparations warranted that nothing should be asked of Germany which she could not pay. On the other hand, he gave assurances that "the countries which were victorious in the war should not be worse off financially than the countries which had lost."

It was even suggested in official quarters that a conference of experts, rather than of theoreticians, holds the key to the European situation and will supercede in importance either the work of the Supreme Council or the League of Nations.

Nation's financial congress in Brussels. American interests here, are following the conference closely. It is understood that the German delegates already have had important talks with well known American financiers and manufacturers.

By LAURENCE HILLS.

Staff Correspondent of THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD, Copyright, 1920, by THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD.

PARIS, May 20.—Greatest secrecy surrounds the sessions of the Franco-German economic conference which began its work here to-day. Both governments participating have decided in view of the possibility of the decisions of the meeting being closely interwoven with those taken by the allied Premiers at San Remo and at Hythe and with those which will be taken at the Spa and Brussels conferences neither the French nor the German delegates shall reveal the nature of their deliberations.

Beyond expressing the hope of solving the mutual problems the German delegates, headed by Dr. Deutch of the German General Electric Company, obeyed the secrecy injunction to the letter, while the French section, working apparently in closest harmony with M. Isaac, French Minister of Commerce, said that it would be futile to discuss proposals made in the conference before their success was assured.

Predictions regarding the length of the conference vary from a fortnight upwards, as it is generally felt here that the arrangements between the French and German interests along the lines of interchange in economic affairs are intended to supply the method whereby the reparations bonds suggested by the Hythe conference will receive interallied and perhaps international guarantee, which has not yet been provided for.

It was unofficially said that such a guarantee would have to obtain British and Belgian sanction before it could actually become effective and that, therefore, the Paris sessions would be followed by conferences in England and in Belgium, wherein the whole field of European commercial interchange would be considered.

The shipment of French raw materials, such as minerals from Lorraine in return for manufactured articles is likely to conflict with the British market interests, but in German circles it was declared that a similar system of reciprocity was possible along certain lines and which would balance the British objections.

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ECONOMIC PARLEY BEGINS IN SECRECY

French and German Delegates Silent About Deliberations in Paris.

CONSULT BRITAIN LATER

American Interests Following Proceedings Closely and See Conference.

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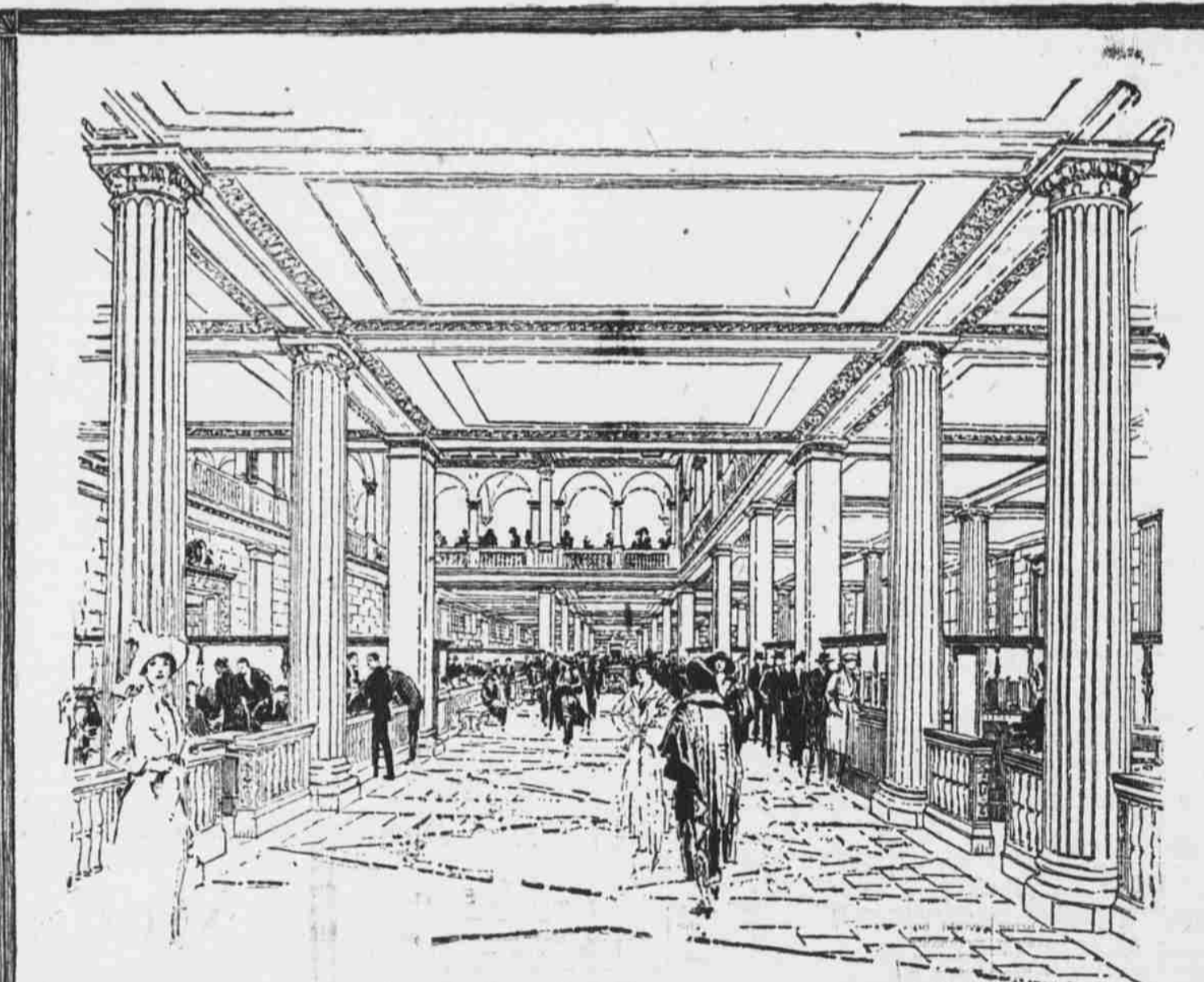
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J. O. L.
Box Y604 Sun-Herald

BOLSHEVIKI DEMAND PERSIAN SURRENDER

Say Port of Enzeli Must Be Turned Over to Them.

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